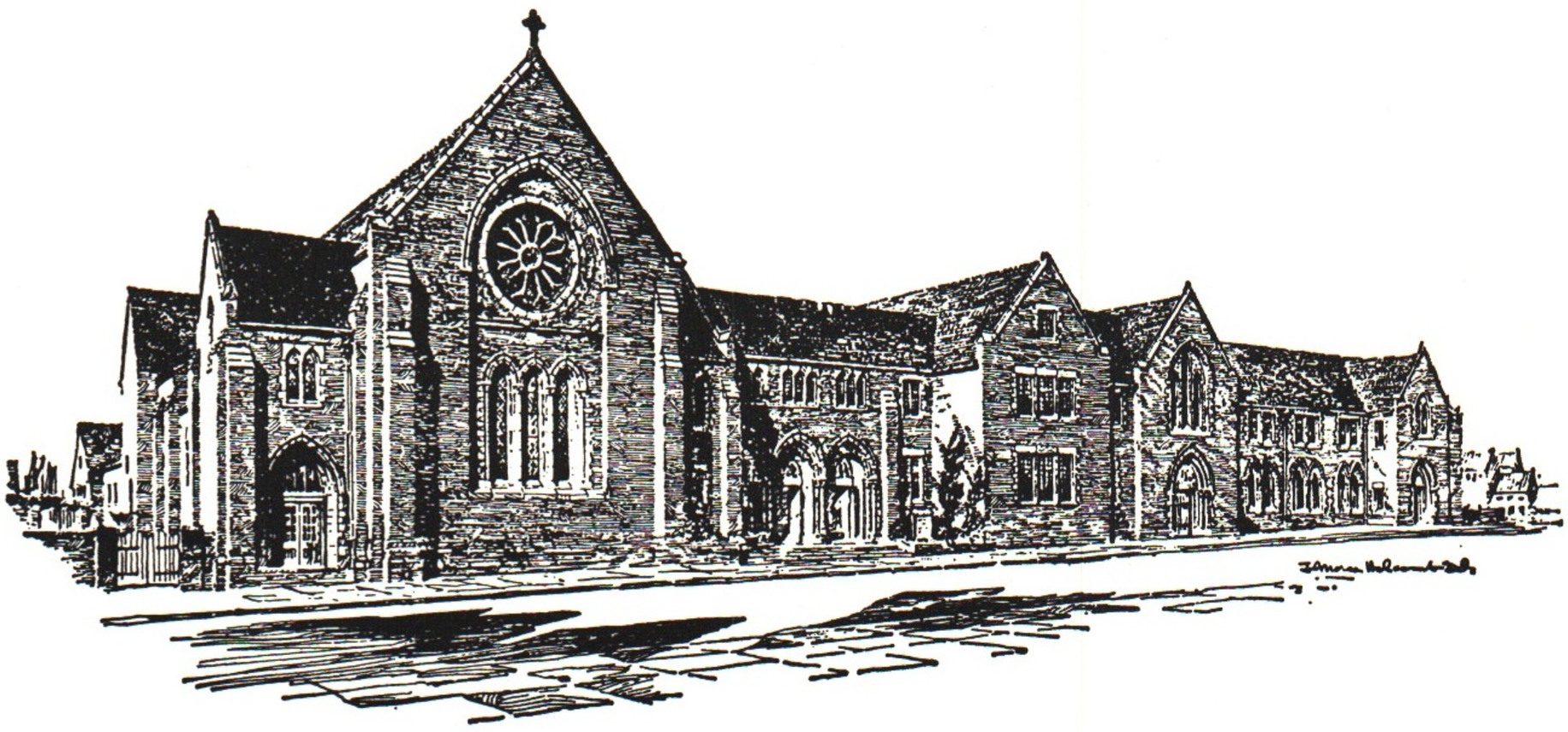
Christ Lutheran Church

"The Church You Can't Forget"

Founded 1887

CHARLES AND HILL STREETS

BALTIMORE, MD. 21230



"The Christ Church Story"

Our Services

Sundays

8:30 A.M.—The Service

(8 A.M. Broadcast over WMAR-FM, 106.5 MC)

9:45 A.M.—Sunday School

11:00 A.M.—The Service

11:00 A.M.—The Children's Hour and Nursery

6:45 P.M.—Luther League

The Christ Church Story

This is not like any other story. It is not "just another" story about a Church. It is the account of a congregation that has been deeply concerned about a necessary service to many people who are in need of special help.

One could well say the Christ Church story began in 1887. It was in that year that Christ English Lutheran Church was founded just a few blocks south of the very center of Baltimore. The first pastor, Dr. Leander M. Zimmerman, saw the need of establishing a Lutheran congregation in the center city and the densely populated area of South Baltimore.

From 1887 to the present day Christ Lutheran Church has brought a dynamic Christian witness to thousands of its own members and by means of radio to tens of thousands of people throughout Baltimore. The story of that Christian proclamation and witness would fill many books in itself.

The story we want to convey, however, concerns the decisions and activities of the congregation in the last ten years. When so many congregations were closing their doors in changing neighborhoods and "moving out" or disbanding, Christ Church made a decision to stay where it has always been. To give tangible evidence of that conviction and decision, the congregation constructed a beautiful Gothic church building as late as 1958 at great financial expense. It had been the only new church building built in the inner city of Baltimore for over fifty years. Ironically it was built on the very site occupied many years before by a Christian congregation which had moved away because as the history of that congregation records in its historical record as of 1887, "there is no future here."

The building of this new church structure in 1958, costing at that time over one million dollars, is by no means the whole of the "Christ Church Story." Indeed it is not even the most exciting chapter in the story.

In 1965 a committee of thirty-five members of the congregation was appointed to take a good long look at the mission of Christ Church for the years ahead. After many meetings and evaluations this committee proposed to the congregation that a complex of facilities and services be built for the sick and the aging. Since the congregation already had many members who were physically ill and infirm in thirty-five different nursing homes, in all the hospitals of the city as well as in their own homes, and since a very large percentage of the membership was sixty years and older, this decision seemed to be both an appropriate and wise one. Furthermore, studies at that time all over the nation had revealed the fact that the greater number of health facilities were inadequate and undesirable. Other national studies had revealed that there was a great need for supervised but independent housing accommodations for our older citizens of low to moderate income.

Once the decision was made to proceed in this direction of service to the congregation and to the total greater Baltimore community, the congregation responded financially and spiritually in a manner that confounded even the professional fund-raising corporation. Over the next five years the congregation contributed for these two facilities and the properties over one million dollars. This magnificent response did not detract from meeting all of our benevolent responsibilities during this period, which responsibilities approximate 40% of our annual budgets.

The John L. Deaton Medical Center, named after a former beloved pastor who served Christ Church for twenty-seven years, is a 220-bed medical and nursing facility that ministers to every level of nursing care. Over 20% of our patients are of the welfare medical assistance category. The finest type of medical and nursing care is given to these patients with no discrimination of race, color or religious confession. In addition to the regular bed patients, the facility treats approximately sixty out-patients twice a week in renal dialysis, a catastrophic disease of the kidneys. This is by far the largest renal dialysis clinic in the city of Baltimore with

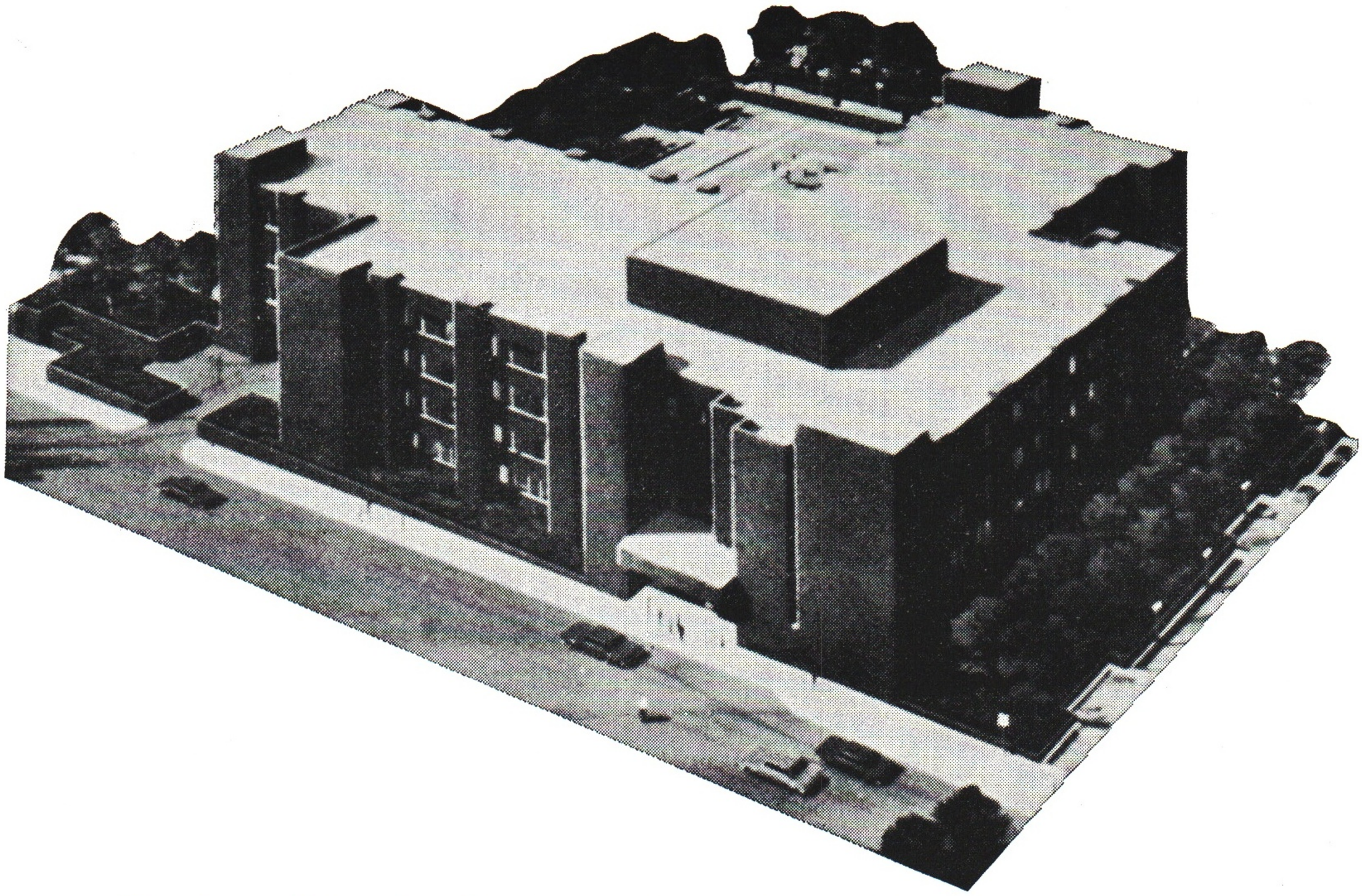
seventeen dialysis units and provisions for home training in the use of the kidney machines. The Deaton Medical Center has a full-time chaplaincy service with regular worship services held each week in the Chapel and additional religious enrichment programs for patients and staff. The Board of Directors for the Medical Center is comprised of highly qualified physicians, nurses, bankers and business men, all of whom are elected by the Church Council of Christ Lutheran Church.

The Christ Church Harbor Apartments with 288 apartment units, 90% one-bedroom apartments and 10% studio apartments, was opened in April, 1974. This facility not only houses individuals of retirement age, but is a very valuable "feeder" for many voluntary services in the Christ Church Complex including such programs as "Meals on Wheels," "The Medical Center" and social and religious events.

For many years Christ Church has been, like most other congregations, a ministry to many people who belong as members to the Church. Now in the wider vision of service, the congregation ministers in many different and essential ways to a total community with a multitude of problems and concerns.

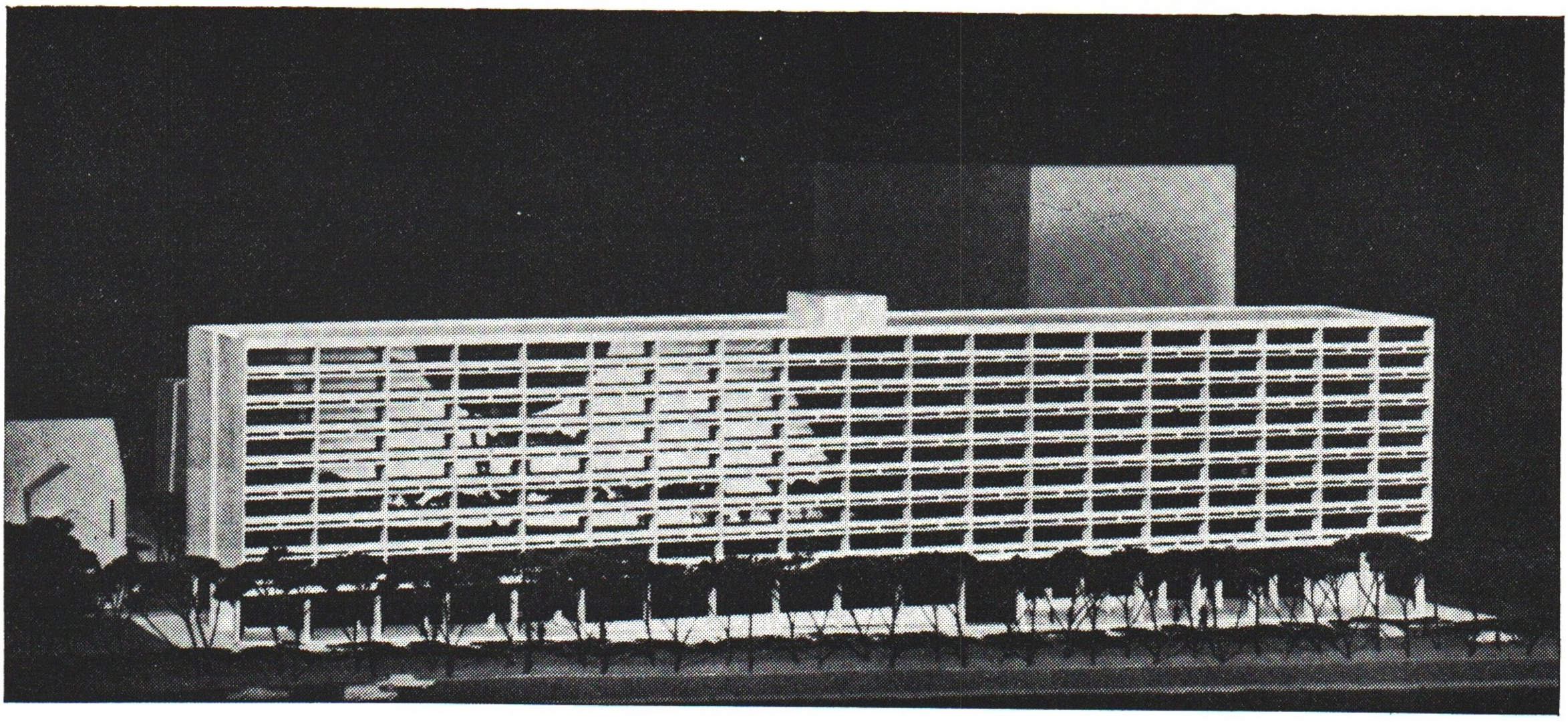
Instead of abandoning our location in the inner city, we have caught the vision of a wider service where we are. The congregation by its decision has elected to become much more than a restricted closed community of members. It has chosen to take the compassionate ministry of the love of Christ to all people in the greater Baltimore area. This is the story of a church that is deeply concerned about the basic needs of all people.

JOHN L. DEATON MEDICAL CENTER



The above picture is a faithful artist's rendering of the John L. Deaton Medical Center. This facility contains 220-patient beds with a special unit for out-patient renal dialysis, physical and occupational therapy and Meditation Chapel.

CHRIST CHURCH HARBOR APARTMENTS

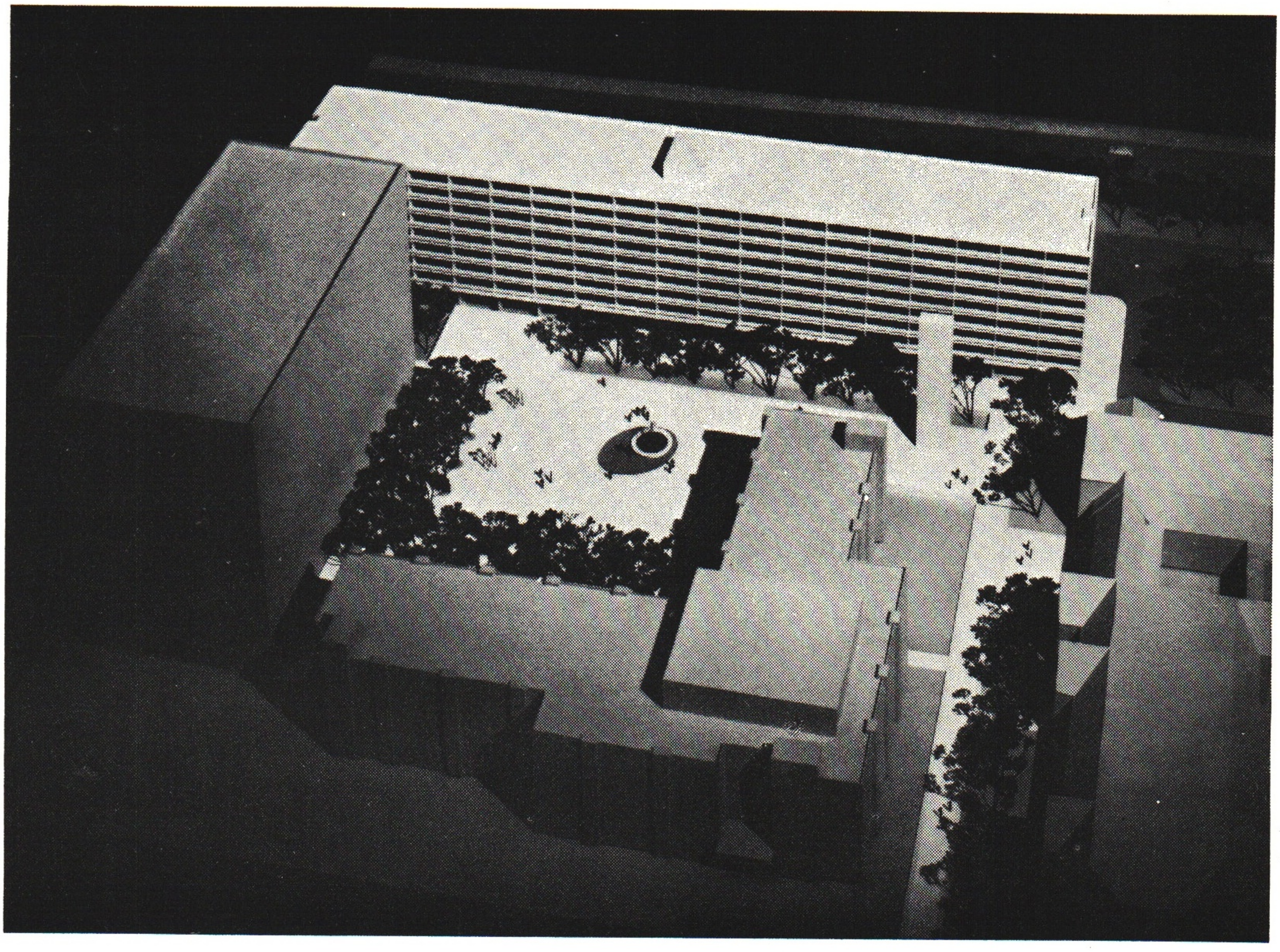


The above picture is a faithful artist's rendering of the Christ Church Harbor Apartments. There are 288 apartment units, 90% of which are one-bedroom units and 10% studio apartments. The building is facing Light Street, overlooking the harbor. Each apartment has its own balcony. The balcony extends the width of the apartment, enabling people to go out onto the balcony from either the bedroom and the living room. The building is completely air-conditioned, wall to wall carpeting, and all utilities are furnished.

Important Dates in The History of Christ Church

December 1, 1887—Dr. Leander M. Zimmerman began his pastoral duties.
December 18, 1887—First Religious Service held in Triumph Hall, 1240 Light Street.
February 5, 1888—Congregation Organized.
August 12, 1888—First Service held in Church (Purchased old Methodist Church).
November 25, 1888—Church Dedicated.
December 1, 1888—Became Self-Supporting.
October 14, 1894—Church Rededicated after being remodeled.
December 15, 1907—Twentieth Anniversary Celebration.
April 19, 1925—Dr. Zimmerman resigned.
September 1, 1925—Dr. Blackwelder began his pastorate.
December 18, 1927—Fortieth Anniversary Celebration.
October 15, 1933—Dr. Oscar F. Blackwelder preached Farewell Sermon.
February 1, 1934—Dr. John L. Deaton came to Christ Church.
July 7, 1935—Ground-Breaking for Leander Zimmerman Parish House.
September 29, 1935—Cornerstone Laid for Leander Zimmerman Parish House.
June 14, 1936—Parish House Dedicated.
October 31, 1937—Church Rededicated.
December 5-15, 1937—Golden Jubilee.
September 29, 1940—Burning of Mortgage on Parish House.
March 10, 1952—Dr. Zimmerman, Pastor Emeritus, entered Church Triumphant.
December 14, 1952—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.
October 16, 1955—Ground-Breaking for Greater Christ Church.
June 3, 1956—Cornerstone Laid for Greater Christ Church.
May 18, 1958—Greater Christ Church Dedicated.
December 21, 1958—Carillon Dedicated.
November 8, 1960—Dr. Deaton entered Church Triumphant.
February 12, 1961—Burning of Mortgage on Greater Christ Church.
October 1, 1961—Dr. Warren C. Johnson came to Christ Church.
December 16, 1962—Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.
June 14, 1964—Dr. Johnson preached Farewell Sermon.
May 24, 1965—Dr. Carl W. Folkemer began his pastoral duties.
Installation on June 6, 1965.
May, 1966—The beginning of the plans of the Greater Christ Church Project including the John L. Deaton Medical Center and the Apartment Dwelling for older people.
December 10, 1967—Eightieth Anniversary Celebration.
January 31, 1971—Ground-Breaking Service of the John L. Deaton Medical Center, Inc.
October 24, 1971—Ground-Breaking Service of the Christ Church Harbor Apartments, Inc.
December 12, 1971—Laying of the Cornerstone of the John L. Deaton Medical Center, Inc.
December 10, 1972—Eighty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Dedication of the John L. Deaton Medical Center.
March 2, 1973—Official Ribbon Cutting of the John L. Deaton Medical Center.
March 6, 1973—First Patients admitted to the John L. Deaton Medical Center.
April 16, 1974—First Tenants moved in Christ Church Harbor Apartments.

Christ Church Complex



The above picture is an artist's rendering of the proposed complex of Christ Church buildings. On the far right is the present Church and Parish House Building; in front of it, looking North, toward downtown, is the Plaza. At the top, along Light Street is the Apartment Building; in the center, Charles Street, showing the Medical Center and on the far left is a proposed structure for ancillary social services to the whole complex. This is a very beautiful setting for the Christ Church complex.